This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (previously presented): For use by a read/write machine, a method for assigning a unique label to a storage medium, the method comprising:

a) determining whether or not the storage medium has been assigned a unique volume label and a unique label identifier;

b) if the storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and a unique label identifier, then

(i) determining a unique label identifier for the storage medium,

(ii) determining a unique volume label for the storage medium,

(iii) writing the unique volume label onto the storage medium, and

(iv) providing a command to generate a label based on the unique label identifier, the label to be associated with the storage medium; and

c) updating a database based on files, if any, added to or deleted from the storage medium.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

d) synchronizing the database with a database on a device apart from the read/write machine.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the read/write machine is a personal computer and the device is a handheld device.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3 wherein the device is an untethered handheld device.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the read/write machine is a computer with at least one of (a) a floppy disk drive, (b) a CD ROM drive, (c) a ZIP drive, and (d) a DVD drive.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the label based on the unique label identifier is a bar code label.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the act of determining a unique volume label is based, at least in part, on state information accessible to the read/write machine.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein the state information is a count sequence.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the database includes records, each record including a first field having a value associated with the unique volume label, and a second field having a value associated with a file stored on the storage medium.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

d) accepting information read from a label associated with the storage medium without reading the storage medium;

e) converting the accepted information into a database key;

f) requesting records from a database instance using the database key;

g) accepting records in response to the request; and

h) rendering information about the accepted records.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10 wherein the label associated with the storage medium is a bar code and wherein the information read from the label is accepted from a bar code scanner.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 10 wherein the information about the accepted records rendered includes file names.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12 wherein the accepted information read from a label associated with the storage medium is read by a handheld device, and the information about the accepted records is rendered on the handheld device.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein the read label is converted into a database key by the handheld device, the records are requested from a database instance using the database key by the handheld device, and the records are accepted in response to the request by the handheld device.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method for matching file parameters with one or more storage media, each of the one or more storage media having an associated label, the method comprising:

a) accepting one or more search parameters;

b) generating a query based on the search parameters;

c) accepting one or more records returned in response to the query generated;

d) rendering information associated with each of the one or more records accepted, the information rendered being related to the label associated with the storage medium storing one or more files identified with the one or more records accepted, wherein the label is provided on the storage medium without storing it on the storage medium.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein the labels are machine-readable labels, the method further comprising:

e) accepting information read from the machine-readable labels;

f) if the accepted information read from the machine-readable labels matches information associated with any one of the one or more records accepted, then generating a first indicator, said first indicator able to be perceived by humans.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16 further comprising:

g) if the accepted information read from the machine-readable labels does not match information associated with any one of the one or more records

accepted, then generating a second indicator, said second indicator able to be perceived by humans.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the first indicator is a first audible sound, and the second indicator is a second audible sound.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein each of the labels include human-readable part, and wherein the information associated with each of the one or more records accepted corresponds to the human-readable part of the labels.

Claim 20 (previously presented): An apparatus for assigning a unique label to a removable storage medium, the apparatus comprising:

a) means for reading files from and/or writing files to a removable storage medium;

b) means for generating a label;

c) means for determining whether or not the removable storage medium has been assigned a unique volume label and a unique label identifier;

d) means, if the storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and a unique label identifier, for

(i) determining a unique label identifier,

(ii) determining a unique volume label,

(iii) instructing the means for reading and/or writing files to write the unique volume label onto the storage medium, and

(iv) providing a command to generate a label based on the unique label identifier, to the means for generating a label; and

e) a database, wherein the database is updated based on any files added to or deleted from the removable storage medium.

Claim 21 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising:

f) means for synchronizing the database with a database on a device apart from the apparatus.

Claim 22 (original): The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the device is a handheld device.

Claim 23 (original): The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the device is an untethered, handheld device.

Claim 24 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the means for reading files from and/or writing files to a removable storage medium are at least one of (a) a floppy disk drive, (b) a CD ROM drive, (c) a ZIP drive, and (d) a DVD drive.

Claim 25 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the label is a bar code label.

Claim 26 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising:

f) state information, wherein the unique volume label is determined, at least in part, based on the state information.

Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the state information is a count sequence.

Claim 28 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the database includes records, each record including a first field having a value associated with the unique volume label, and a second field having a value associated with a file stored on the removable storage medium.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising:

f) means for reading a label associated with the storage medium without reading the storage medium;

g) means for accepting information read, by the means for reading, from a label associated with the storage medium;

h) means for converting the read label into a database key;

i) means for requesting records from a database instance using the database key;

j) means for accepting records in response to the request; and

k) means for rendering information about the accepted records.

Claim 30 (original): The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the means for reading is a bar code scanner, and wherein the label associated with the storage medium is a bar code.

Claim 31 (original): The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the information about the accepted records rendered includes file names.

Claim 32 (original): The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the means for rendering is a display.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising:

l) the database.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 33 further comprising:

m) means for synchronizing the database with a database maintained by a separate machine which created the storage medium.

Claim 35 (previously presented): An apparatus for matching file parameters with one or more storage media, each of the one or more storage media having an associated label, the apparatus comprising:

a) a user input for accepting one or more search parameters;

b) means for generating a query based on the accepted one or more search parameters;

c) means for accepting one or more records returned in response to the query generated;

d) means for rendering information associated with each of the one or more records accepted, the information rendered being related to the label associated with the storage medium storing one or more files identified with the one or more records accepted, wherein the label is provided on the storage medium without storing it on the storage medium.

Claim 36 (original): The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the labels are machine-readable labels, the apparatus further comprising:

e) a label reader for reading information read from the machine-readable labels; and

f) an output means for generating a first indicator able to be perceived by humans if the accepted information read from the machine-readable labels matches information associated with any one of the one or more records accepted.

Claim 37 (original): The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the output means further generates a second indicator able to be perceived by humans if the accepted information read from the machine-readable labels does not match information associated with any one of the one or more records accepted.

Claim 38 (original): The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the output means is a speaker, wherein the first indicator is a first audible sound, and wherein the second indicator is a second audible sound.

Claim 39 (original): The apparatus of claim 35 wherein each of the labels include human-readable part, and wherein the information associated with each of the one or more records accepted corresponds to the human-readable part of the labels.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein if the storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and a unique label identifier then further,

- generating a label based on the unique label identifier, and
- fixing the generated label to the storage medium without storing it on the storage medium.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising means, if the storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and a unique label identifier, for

- generating a label based on the unique label identifier, and
- fixing the generated label to the storage medium without storing it on the storage medium.

Claim 42 (new): The method of claim 15 wherein the information rendered is related to the label associated with the storage medium storing one or more files identified with the one or more records accepted such that a user or a scanner can distinguish the storage medium including the label from other storage media.

Claim 43 (new): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

d) updating the database based on files deleted from the storage medium.